

IN STEYN'S CAPITAL.

BRITISH TROOPS TAKE BLOEM-FONTEIN.

Lord Roberts Cables the London War Office that General French Has Reached and Occupied the Head City of the Orange Free State.

The British war office received a dispatch Tuesday morning from Lord Roberts announcing that Gen. French reached Bloemfontein and after a hard fight with the Boers occupied two hills close to the railway station and commanding the town. There are 321 men wounded, says Roberts' dispatch, "and about sixty or seventy were killed or are missing. The wounds are, as a rule, more serious than usual, owing to the expanding bullets which are freely used by the Boers. A brother of President Steyn was made a prisoner."

Bloemfontein is not a naturally strong position and was made the Orange Free State capital without regard to military importance or defense. It stands on a high plateau, exposed on all sides and without the shadow of a natural barrier to the west, whence the British were expected to advance. All around the town the country is sterile and unfitted for agriculture. The soil is covered with low-lying, tufted grass and low brush, which alone relieve the otherwise dead monotony of the plain. The houses of the city are low and white and obscured by the trees, which have grown within the town from sprouted sprouts. Bloemfontein's principal building is the capitol, which supports a lofty tower. This, together with a few spired churches and a few school buildings, is the only structure that is prominent from a distance. Normally, the population of the capital is only 4,000, a rather small number when the large area the town covers is taken into consideration. The only permanent fortifications of Bloemfontein are those on the east. The town is protected on that side by a long ridge, which rises 300 feet above the level of the plain. From this ridge mounts a kopje, or hill, upon which the Boers erected a fort several years ago, when they were in constant fear of danger from British aggression. This fort would not have been of much service without long range guns, and even these could not prevent the enemy from shelling the town on the west. Early in the execution of Lord Roberts' change of plan, whereby the British



GENERAL FRENCH.

army was concentrated in the west, the Boers decided to remove their government to Winburg. Meanwhile they had constructed a series of trenches on the side of Bloemfontein to the west. The nature of these works was similar to those the Boers used in the long investment of Kimberley.

AMERICA'S AID ASKED.

Kruger and Steyn Request This Government to Communicate with Britain. The first direct effort to aid the Boer republics to secure the services of the United States Government in the direction of bringing about peace in South Africa has been made with some degree of success. After endeavoring, apparently in vain, to induce the continental powers to render to Great Britain their services as mediators, President Kruger and presumably President Steyn have turned to the American Government with a request of such character that President McKinley and Secretary Hay found that they could comply with it without conflicting with their declarations that the Government would not mediate between the belligerents unless invited to do so by both.

Through Albert S. Hay, the United States consul at Pretoria, the Boer governments have asked the Government of the United States to place before Great Britain a statement of the terms upon which the Boers are willing to negotiate a treaty of peace and to ascertain terms which Great Britain may deem it expedient to offer. The United States Government has thus been placed as a channel for the transmission of communications between the two belligerents without being called on to assume the initiative in any phase of the present aspect of the situation.

President McKinley directed that the communication from Pretoria be transmitted to the British Government. The terms which the Boers have proposed as a preliminary to the arrangement of a peace treaty are regarded as tentative and to serve merely as an entering wedge to securing Great Britain's consent to discuss a general proposition for a peace arrangement or the selection of a mediator, which is again to be the United States Government.

As the war between Great Britain and the Boer republics is regarded as a purely foreign matter, the President, bound by the pledge given at The Hague peace conference, could not, if he desired, take the initiative in steps to bring the war to an end.

Our pension bureau estimates that there are 1,032,418 surviving soldiers of the civil war, excluding deserters. About 212,000 of these are unpensioned. The average age of the survivors is 60 years.

Representative C. A. Bouteille of Maine has so far recovered from his recent illness, which made it necessary to send him to Boston for treatment, that he has decided to seek re-election.

The Russian press was virulent over Cronie's surrender and suggested a diversion against Great Britain.

DIFFICULT CAMPAIGNING IN SOUTH AFRICA.



The picture shows Coles Kop, or hill, taken by the British in Cape Colony, and the system used in sending up ammunition for the guns stationed on top. The distance from the camp to the summit is 1,400 feet. The illustration shows the difficulties experienced in serving the guns even when they are in effective position.

Side Lights on the Boer War.

It is said that in 1894 the Boers gave their first order for big guns and that at the time they expended nearly half a million dollars with Krupp of Germany, and about the same amount with an Austrian firm for smaller arms. The Krupp guns were delivered in 1895, and included two of what was then the largest pattern for a gun in the world. These guns are forty-eight feet in length, weigh 120 tons, throw a shell weighing 2,300 pounds and require 904 pounds of powder for each discharge. One of these guns has been dragged to a hill overlooking Ladysmith. The other is on the fortifications defending Pretoria. In 1895 another order for field guns of long range was placed with Krupp. It was in 1890 that the Cresset guns, those that have done the most effective fighting, were purchased. Several large orders for guns were placed at later dates.

The important part played by carrier pigeons in the South African war is not generally known. At the outbreak of hostilities one of the first to place his pigeons at the disposal of the British Government was E. Lee of Pietermaritzburg. These birds were carried through to Ladysmith on an armored train the day before communication was shut off. They brought the first news from Ladysmith to the British Government. The Boers realizing the advantage gained by the enemy from the use of pigeons soon established a loft for training the birds in Johannesburg.

Nearly six years ago, so the story runs, a party of Boer immigrants from Cape Colony came upon a little plain in the territory north of the Orange river, and as it first burst upon their eyes a woman in the party exclaimed: "It's a Bloemfontein" (flower garden). The plain was covered with wild flowers, and presented a glorious appearance to the first white people that had ever looked upon it. This was the capital of the Orange Free State founded and named.

The question of the employment of native Indian troops in the South African war is being very generally discussed in India. The Indian native cavalry is one of the finest bodies of horse in the world. An argument for the employment of these troops is that the waste of cavalry will be great before the war is over, and that six months hence Great Britain will be driven to employ her native cavalry whether she wishes to or not.

The widow of Gen. Symons, who was one of the first British officers to fall in the war, has married again. Sir W. P. Symons, K. C. B., was killed in the battle of Glencoe in October last. The lady's new husband is said to be about half her age.

Human sympathy is always with the "under dog" in a fight. Cronie's remarkable stand against the British forces and the valor shown by the Boers in the face of terrible odds have won the Transvaalians praise and admiration the world over.

Butler and his staff are actually living the life of a private. There has not been even a tent to cover the commanding general. They sit down on the ground, with their shoulders against rocks. They sleep where they can, and their field work is carried on under a transport wagon.

Consulting surgeons who have gone to South Africa are paid at the rate of \$25,000 a year, with free passage to the seat of war and return, and London papers are complaining that the sum is exorbitant.

The artillery and cavalry horses of the Boers have all been inoculated against the "tsetse fly" and rinderpest, both of which are apt to play havoc with green horses in that district.

Some of the Boer rifles taken by the British are double-barreled muzzle-loaders of a pattern made over thirty years ago.

The wife of President Steyn of the Orange Free State is the daughter of an English clergyman.

SHELDON AS NEWS CENSOR.

Topeka, Kan., Pastor Issues His Christian Daily Newspaper. The first number of the Topeka Capital as a "Christian newspaper," under the Rev. Charles M. Sheldon's editorship, opened with a paper written by Bishop John H. Vincent of the Methodist Church. Following this came a plea for the famine sufferers in India, by the editor, who in a long letter from an Indian missionary and an official statement by Vice-Chancellor, as to India's needs. The entire first page was given up to this matter and an attack on war and sailors.

The original typographical style of the paper was altered, and single-line heads with two "banks" used in all so-called top-head stories. There was an evident desire to tone down everything and to give no prominence to anything which might cause the greatest soul to feel a thrill of indignation.

For six days the Capital continued after this form with all theatrical, criminal news, carefully eliminated. Market reports of other than active cash quotations were consigned to the waste basket, and the subscriber was for the period of editor Sheldon's censorship compelled to seek his information in another paper. Advertisements of the exclusive and Christian variety only were permitted to appear, and all these were overlooked by Editor Sheldon before going to the foreman of the composing room.

"How an untrained newspaper man can run a newspaper is a mystery to the men of the press," remarked a prominent journalist. "As a novelty it is all very well; as a permanent institution I fear Mr. Sheldon's experiment will not prove a success either financially or from a news point of view. I always remember what Charles A. Dana used to say that whatever the Almighty permitted to happen he was not ashamed to print."

A VISIT TO PARIS COSTLY.

High Rates Charged to Travelers in the French Metropolis. A Chicago newspaper man now in Paris writes home regarding the expense of a visit to that city. He says: "The hotels have all raised their rates from 40 to 80 per cent. The board amounts to about \$5 a day, and all meals skimped every day. You are also obliged to pay from six to ten people connected. Next to the hotels as freebooters come the stores, especially clothing stores, that have put up their prices quite 40 per cent. Hats and shoes are 50 per cent dearer than in 1899; neckties that range from 25 cents to 50 cents in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, range from three francs (60 cents) to seven francs (\$1.40) here—and this in the country of silk manufactures! Cotton, linen and woolen goods have nearly all advanced from 20 to 60 per cent over what they were in 1899. Cakes and umbrellas and such from 20 to 40 per cent. Shirts, handkerchiefs and gloves seem not to have advanced so much.

"Druggists' goods have gone diabolist over all of all grades of popular robbery. A prescription that would cost 25 cents in San Francisco is \$1 here. An ounce of castor oil is 60 cents, a pint of which brings 90 cents and an ounce of borax 40 cents. The only thing cheap in Paris to-day is the cab, which is still only 30 cents from any one point to another in the city, for from one to three persons, or 40 cents per hour for same. Scores of Americans who had come here to stay for several months are going back.

Notes of Current Events.

Prince Hohenzollern said in the Reichstag that Alsace-Lorraine must still be held as conquered territory.

Gen. Mercier's paper, the Paris Echo, has been shut out of Alsace-Lorraine by the German Government.

The Rev. Dr. Mackenzie, a Presbyterian minister of San Francisco, has made a fortune by raising oranges.

During an attack of desperate melancholia Mrs. Doris Heescher, a Presbyterian daughter in a cemetery at Kiel and then committed suicide, using a butcher's cleaver.

Patronize those who advertise.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

PROBABLE EFFECT OF KRUGER'S PEACE PROPOSALS.

War Experts See in This a Shrewd Diplomatic Move—Foreign Consuls Asked to Invite Intervention of the Powers—Boers Suffer Another Defeat.

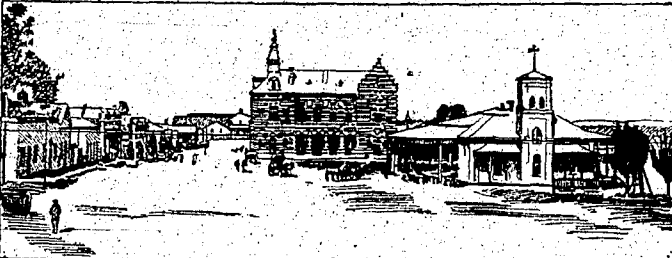
A dispatch received in London from Pretoria and censored by the Boer Government asserts that President Kruger and President Steyn wired to Lord Salisbury peace proposals, on condition that the independence of the two republics be respected and the rebel colonials annulled. The foreign consuls, it is also declared, were called into conference and were requested to invite the intervention of the powers they represent in order to prevent further bloodshed.

The reported overtures for peace made by Kruger, in which he made his own terms, seems, to some of the war experts, worthy of credence. The recent emancipation of the Boer forces in the Orange Free State and the evident elimination of the burghers in that locality to continue the hopeless struggle furnish corroborative testimony that the federal allies would be glad to obtain peace upon an advantageous basis, if that were possible. It is not at all likely that the end of the war will be greatly hastened by the peace overtures. It is quite probable that President Kruger was forced to make them in order to satisfy the demands of his Free State allies. It is not to be believed that Kruger himself hoped even for a moment that Great Britain would grant peace upon the terms he names. These terms, it is said, include provisions for the free independence of the two republics and, doubtless, the submission to arbitration of the differences in regard to British suzerainty and the other matters in dispute. These were practically the terms that the Transvaal insisted upon before the opening of the hostilities. If Great Britain would not accept them there is not the slightest possibility that she will accept them now, at the end of nearly five months of bloody and expensive war, with the advantage distinctly on the side of the British.

That the Boers are ready to accept any terms of peace which the British Government is likely to offer them at present is unlikely. The two parties to the war in South Africa are still too far apart in their ideas to make any negotiations at this time profitable. The Boers still believe that they can achieve their independence, and the British, flushed by their recent successes, will listen to nothing but an absolute surrender on the part of the two republics and the complete annihilation of their independence.

Under this state of affairs, believing that each one of said persons is innocent and that, having done all that international courtesy could demand, nothing further will be done except to act as a medium for the transmission of messages between the contending powers.

THE OBJECTIVE POINT OF GENERAL ROBERTS' CAMPAIGN.



VIEW IN THE MARKET SQUARE, BLOEMFONTEIN.

their incorporation in a South African federation, and the extreme rights still enjoyed by the Dutch shall be maintained. The latter may have to accept this fate in the end, but there will be some very hard fighting before they do so.

Paul Kruger, whatever his shortcomings in the way of education may be, is a wise and shrewd diplomat. His every diplomatic move in the proceedings leading up to the outbreak of hostilities was eminently wise, from the point of view of his Government. In asking for peace now, Kruger doubtless is also seeking to make manifest to the world the fact that the object of Great Britain is the complete subjugation of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State and the incorporation of those two republics into the territory of British South Africa. Kruger is willing now to surrender all points at issue providing the independence of the republics be conceded. The Boers are not yet ready for complete surrender. They will retire and fortify for the last desperate struggle, and in all probability the most serious conflict of the entire war is yet to occur.

President Kruger's peace overtures naturally will have some effect in the diplomatic world at large in making it clear that the Boers are not now so far from the Boers are concerned, is a death struggle for independence. The influence on South Africa of the outcome of the peace overtures may be more marked. For the discontent of the Dutch residents of Cape Colony presumably will be increased by the disclosures of Great Britain's intention to extend its rule over the Dutch republics. The sympathy of the Boers resident in British territory is with those republics.

BOERS PUT TO ROUT.

Engage in Stubborn Fight on Dreifontein and Are Defeated. The British forces under Gen. Roberts have again put the Boers to rout and have completed another stage on the road to Bloemfontein. The battle, which was fought on Dreifontein, was fought on Saturday. At daylight it was found that the Boers had retired. Losses on both sides were heavy. Gen. Roberts reporting more than 100 dead burghers found on the field, while an admittedly incomplete list of his casualties showed thirteen officers killed or wounded, including a total of about 150 of the rank and file.

For a time it seemed as if the British had met their match, for the Dutch forces occupied a strong position and were equipped with artillery superior to that used by their assailants. They also outnumbered Roberts' generals, frustrating every attempt to flank their lines. Superior numbers prevailed, however, and the Boers got away in safety, leaving little of value behind.

The British reported casualties up to this date are as follows: Killed, 2,418; wounded, 8,747; died of disease, 1,029; missing, 3,483; total, 15,677.

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RIMINGTON'S SCOUTS.

Rimington's scouts, or "Rimington's Tigers," so called from the strip of leopard's skin worn round their hats, are a picked body of colonial horsemen serving



SCOUTS RECONNOITERING.

with Lord Methuen, and have a thorough knowledge of the South African country. The fine scouting they have done has earned for themselves the names of the "Eyes and Ears of the Brigade."—London Black and White.

GOV. TAYLOR DEFIANT.

Declares He Will Protect Men Accused of Killing Goebel.

Both houses of the Kentucky Legislature met in the state house at Frankfort Monday morning. In anticipation of a possible attempt by the State troops to prevent the meeting quite a crowd gathered around the state house square, but the members of the Legislature were allowed to enter without molestation. Secretary of State Powers and Capt. Davis were secretly taken from the Lexington jail between midnight and daybreak and in charge of Sheriff Suter of Frankfort were driven overland to Versailles, where they were placed on a train and taken to Louisville. The removal caused much excitement.

Acting Governor Taylor concluded an explanation of his reasons for granting pardons to all the men in prison and out, who are accused of having guilty knowledge of the assassination of Governor-elect William Goebel in these words: "Under this state of affairs, believing that each one of said persons is innocent and that, having done all that international courtesy could demand, nothing further will be done except to act as a medium for the transmission of messages between the contending powers."

FINANCIAL BILL IS LAW.

President McKinley Affixes His Signature to Measure.

President McKinley signed the financial bill Wednesday afternoon, after it had been signed by the president pro tempore of the Senate in open session, and immediately the measure became a law. In explaining the provisions of the bill Secretary Gage said:

"The bill reaffirms that the unit of value is the dollar, consisting of twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of gold minutely fine and makes the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain all forms of money issued or coined in conformity with this standard. It puts into the hands of the Secretary ample power to do that. For that purpose the bill provides in the treasury bureaus of issue and redemption, and transfers from the general fund of the treasury's cash \$150,000,000 in gold coin and bullion to the redemption fund, to be sold to be used for the redemption of United States notes and treasury notes. The law permits national banks with \$25,000 capital to be organized in places of 3,000 inhabitants or less, whereas heretofore the minimum capital has been \$50,000. It also permits banks to issue circulation on all classes of bonds deposited up to the par value of the bonds, instead of 90 per cent of their face, as heretofore. This ought to make an immediate increase in national bank circulation of something like \$24,000,000. National banks are permitted under the law to issue circulation up to an amount equal to their capital. The total capital of national banks is \$303,000,000. The total circulation outstanding is \$233,000,000. There is, therefore, a possibility of an increase in circulation of \$303,000,000."



FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

London imports 18,000,000 tons of coal annually.

There were nearly \$9,000 deaths in London last year.

A factory at Redditch, England, makes 70,000,000 needles a week.

The average progress on the Simplot tunnel is sixteen feet a day.

In Ceylon there are only 6,000 Europeans against 3,250,000 natives.

The Russian budget estimate for public education for 1900 is about \$24,000,000.

The only railway in Corea is equipped with American material and rolling stock.

In the fashionable thoroughfares of London a good house rents for \$50,000 a year.

Last year's consumption of whisky in the United Kingdom was the largest on record.

India has electric railways only in Madras, and a company will ask for a franchise in Bombay.

By a reduction in wages of natives working in the mines the Transvaal Government will save \$7,500,000 a year.

French peasants who live near the sewage farms of Paris have entered protest because their wells are contaminated.

At Berlin a society has been formed to combat what the members term "the heresy of the circulation of the blood."

The London News states that Monte Carlo is the one spot on the continent at present where everything is done to please the English and make them comfortable, as the Monte Carlo people appreciate British patronage and gold.

It has been officially announced at St. Petersburg that the first section of the Trans-Siberian division of the Siberian railway has been completed, and by the middle of the coming summer there will be through communication by rail and steamer between St. Petersburg and Vladivostok, a distance of 6,372 miles. It is estimated that the run can be made in twenty-four days.

POWERS WARNED OFF.

BRITAIN GIVES NOTICE THAT INTERVENTION MEANS WAR.

American State Department Receives Lord Salisbury's Answer, Which Plainly Says "Keep Out"—Boers Now Determined to Fight to the End.

Great Britain, in her answer received by the State Department in Washington to the overtures for peace submitted by the United States Government in behalf of Presidents Kruger and Steyn, serves notice on all the nations of the world that she will not tolerate any interference by any of them with the prosecution of the war in South Africa. "This attitude is distinctly set forth in Lord Salisbury's response, the declaration of the Boer suggestion that the United States be permitted to mediate being applicable by Lord Salisbury to 'any nation.'" It is regarded as a warning to Russia and France that if they attempt to bring the war to an end before the British Government is ready to make terms of peace the two continental powers must be prepared to fight Great Britain. That is the plain English of Lord Salisbury's brief reply.

Lord Salisbury has probably voiced the will of the majority of the British people by sending notice to Presidents Kruger and Steyn that her majesty's government is unsupported in its attitude to the independence of either the South African republic or the Orange Free State. The correspondence between the South African executives and the British prime minister was laid before Parliament. Lord Salisbury places the sole responsibility for the war on the republics and announces Great Britain's determination to continue the war until the further existence of Boer independence in South Africa.

The dispatch received from the two presidents does not read much like the supplication of a thoroughly beaten and penitent foe. It is regarded in London rather as a reasonably frank statement of the situation from the Boer point of view, containing, too, a pronounced suggestion that unless the independence of the republics shall be recognized the war will be continued to the limit of the ability of the republican allies, although the overwhelming preponderance of the British empire is conceded.

Washington officials take the note from the British executive as a pronounced suggestion that unless the independence of the republics shall be recognized the war will be continued to the limit of the ability of the republican allies, although the overwhelming preponderance of the British empire is conceded.

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CHURCH AND CLERGY.

The average salary paid to Methodist preachers in the United States last year was \$473.35.

The Young Men's Christian Association in Rome is now six years old and is in a flourishing condition.

Efforts have been started in Brooklyn to give the gospel in some direct form to every adult during 1900.

Last year the Presbyterian Church in England contributed \$100,000 to missions and other philanthropic objects.

Two young Christian Chinamen in Hilo have started a movement for the Christianization of the Filipinos.

An international congress of Roman Catholic workmen will be held in Paris during the coming summer.

An effort will be made to raise \$3,000,000 to insure the perpetuation of the D. L. Moody institutions at Northfield.

The Methodist Year Book, which has just been issued, shows in the United States 37,589 ministers and 2,871,943 probationers.

The Congregational Church Building Society received for its work last year nearly \$250,000. The loan fund now exceeds \$650,000.

Publishing firms state that the rise in the price of Bibles is caused by the advance in paper, and not by a desire to form a Bible trust.

The Rev. Dr. Guinness Rogers has retired from his pastorate of Grafing Square Chapel, London, after a ministry of fifty-four years.

The nonconformist church choir of London will hold a singing contest at Crystal Palace in June, in which choirs will compete for prizes of money and 4,000 adult singers will give a concert.

A movement is on foot to reorganize the City of Bradford, England, from a church point of view. The building of new churches, the removal of unnecessary ones, and the rearrangement of parishes are included in the scheme.

CRAWFORD CO. DIRECTORY.

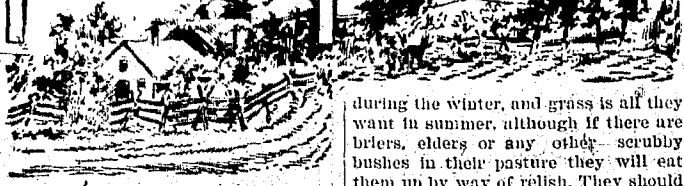
COUNTY OFFICERS.

Sherriff.....Geo. F. Owens
Clerk.....James W. Hartwick
Register.....John Jones
Treasurer.....M. D. Connelley
Prosecuting Attorney.....J. Patterson
Judge of Probate.....E. A. Taylor
J. C. Combs.....L. T. Wright
Surveyor.....Wm. Kitzelman

SUPERVISORS.

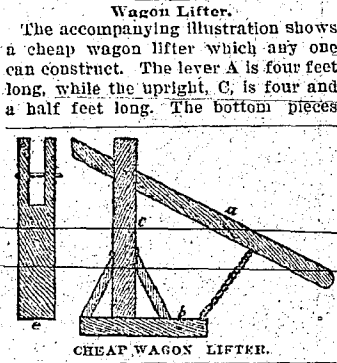
South Branch.....W. F. Richardson
Beaver Creek.....John Haas
Maple Forest.....F. E. Deshler
Grayling.....J. C. Connelley
Frederick.....James Smith

FARMS AND FARMERS



The Value of Mules.
The cause of the large order for army pack mules which the British Government has been buying in this country and mostly in Texas, was the recognition by English officers present during the brief campaign of Santiago de Cuba of the value of these very little animals in the transportation of supplies. The officers of our own regular army had long known and appreciated their usefulness during an active campaign. With enough of them an army can be kept well supplied with everything the departments may have in store during periods of bad weather when wagon trails could not be moved at all, and over a country too rough for vehicles. Their readiness at any time for service and the ease with which they can be kept together and moved over any sort of country in order to be kept within convenient reach of the troops will recommend them to all officers who see them in active campaigns. Every government of Europe is quick to appreciate anything that tends to improve the efficiency of an army in the field, and it is not improbable that other European governments will make requisitions upon this country for large numbers of pack mules. Texas can raise thousands of them on the range at little cost.

Wagon Lifter.
The accompanying illustration shows a cheap wagon lifter which any one can construct. The lever A is four feet long, while the upright, C, is four and a half feet long. The bottom piece should be 2x8 and 20 inches long. The upright, as shown at B, is mortised at the top and receives the lever A. After the wagon is raised it is retained in position by means of a chain which is fastened to a hook in B.



CHEAP WAGON LIFTER.

Manure and Rotation.
Our garden contains one and a quarter acres and is twenty rods long. I made a great mistake in running it in garden truck and hood crops for ten years with only two applications of stable manure. I thought commercial fertilizers were easier to handle and entirely free from weed seed or grass seed of all kinds, therefore I used it nearly every year till there was no humus left in the soil. It baked badly, remained wet late in spring and no crop did well. Last summer the bugs ate the leaves off of my potato vines when they were young and they all died. Bugs also devoured turnips, tomatoes, beet tops, bean vines, etc. I at first had a good garden and thought it would continue that way forever; but I now know by experience that I was mistaken, and there may be other mistaken farmers who will read these lines. My garden is now sowed to wheat, which looks fine. I shall give it a good coat of stable manure this winter, sow it to clover in the spring and plow under the next spring. In the meantime I have a strip elsewhere for garden.—W. T. Wright.

Paris Green.
There has been a general complaint of the adulteration of Paris green that we would certainly advise farmers to abandon its use entirely as an insecticide, either on fruit trees, potatoes or other plants. There is said to be some of it on the market that contains no arsenic at all, and is probably some of the cheaper green paints. Other samples are made by mixing about one-half gypsum or plaster with pure Paris green, thus reducing strength in the same proportion, while others are simply low grades with not over 40 per cent. arsenic acid instead of 58 per cent. Some try to strengthen these cheap compounds or mixtures by adding white arsenic, which is cheaper than Paris green, but it is also more liable in fact, almost certain—to injure the foliage unless lime is used with parts of lime to the amount of about ten parts of lime to one of arsenic.—American Cultivator.

Keeping Chimneys Clean.
After a winter's supply of wood or coal has been burned, much of it while rain or snow is drifting down the chimney, it is sure to be foul with soot, and any extra hot fire, especially with wood, will send sparks up that will set the soot afire and endanger the house. It is a good plan to poke a broom or brush with very long handle up and down the chimney to clear away the soot. If this is done and the soot is removed from below there will be little danger of its doing any damage. The chimney ought to be made smooth inside, so that the soot will not be caught by roughness as the smoke goes up. A chimney afire is a serious danger, especially when the hot fire that causes it is made just before the family retire for the night. Coal fires are less dangerous than those from light wood, which make a bright flame and send up many sparks.

Caring for Sheep.
There are no secrets about the best way to care for sheep. The man who owns a farm and does not keep sheep, making an excuse for not doing so because they are hard to take care of, is either ignorant of sheep husbandry or simply lazy. Sheep are about the most comfortable animals to take care of that we have about us. They are quiet and contented and not very particular about their feed if they are kept in good health. They need to be fed regularly given sound and wholesome feed, but the feed need not be of the costliest kind. Good, bright hay and a small amount of corn will keep them in good shape

COUNTED BY BILLIONS

THE COBENITE AND BRYANITE THEORIES UPSET BY FACTS.

This Country Has Passed the Two Billion Dollar Mark Alike in Its Foreign Trade and in the Amount of Money in Circulation.

The United States has reached the two billion dollar mark alike as to its foreign commerce and its volume of money in circulation. This is an unpleasant fact for two classes of theorists. It is unpleasant for free-traders, because the development of our trade with foreign nations up to and beyond the two billion dollar mark knocks the life out of a cherished free-trade belief and shows that the free-trade theory, hopelessly, absurdly at fault in its contention that a protective tariff is fatal to foreign trade expansion. Equally unpleasant, indeed actually distressing, is the fact of a two billion dollar volume of money in circulation to those who have based all their political hopes and ambitions upon the effort to show that "16 to 1" was the only thing that could make money plenty and cheap.

Curiously enough, the facts that make both the Cobenite and the Bryanite look silly are the product of a single month of the history of the United States under McKinley and Prosperity. On the 14th of January of this year it was announced by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics that in the year 1899 our foreign commerce had crossed the two billion dollar line, while on the 1st of February the Treasury Bureau of Loans and Currency made known the fact that the total money in circulation had also crossed the two billion dollar line, while gold and gold certificates alone had crossed the 800 million dollar line. The total foreign commerce for the year 1899 was \$2,074,345,242, while the total money in circulation on Feb. 1 was \$2,006,140,355. The use of two figures which show the business conditions of the country is indeed becoming surprisingly frequent. The tables of the December summary of commerce and finance show, for instance, the total resources of national banks at \$4,475,343,924; the latest report of the Comptroller of the Currency shows the deposits in savings banks to be \$2,330,360,954; the total resources of all banks in the United States are given by the same report as \$3,917,177,351, and the latest number of the summary of Commerce and Finance shows the December clearing house returns of all cities outside of New York at \$3,012,806,144, and those of the city of New York at \$5,348,253,897.

The announcement that the money in circulation in the United States has for the first time crossed the two billion dollar line also calls attention to the fact that the amount of money for each individual is greater to-day than ever before. The Treasury Bureau of Loans and Currency publishes each month a statement of the amount of money in circulation, and by combining with this the actuary's estimate of population, presents a monthly statement of the amount of money in circulation per capita. This statement puts the population on Feb. 1, 1900, at 77,116,000, the money in circulation at \$2,006,140,355, and the circulation per capita at \$25.98. This gives a larger per capita than in any earlier month in the history of the country. On Feb. 1, 1899, it was \$25.42, on Feb. 1, 1898, \$25.37, on Feb. 1, 1897, \$25.05, and on Feb. 1, 1896, \$24.45.

No period in our financial history has shown a more rapid growth in the amount of money in circulation than that covered by the past three or four years. The total money in circulation to-day is 33 per cent. greater than at the beginning of the fiscal year 1897, and the gold and gold certificates in circulation 61 per cent. greater than at that time, the actual increase in money in circulation during that period being \$493,424,155, and of gold and gold certificates \$305,886,000; practically two-thirds of the increase, therefore, having been in gold.

The following table shows the amount of gold and total money in circulation at the beginning of each quarter of the fiscal year, from July 1, 1896, to date:

Date.	Gold and certificates in circulation.	Total money in circulation.
1896—July 1.	498,440,242	1,509,725,200
Oct. 1.	517,508,129	1,582,302,389
1897—Jan. 1.	555,680,668	1,650,223,400
April 1.	554,582,096	1,669,000,694
July 1.	556,432,594	1,670,000,240
Oct. 1.	564,307,912	1,678,840,598
1898—Jan. 1.	584,194,949	1,721,100,640
April 1.	618,448,841	1,750,058,645
July 1.	606,780,519	1,843,355,749
Oct. 1.	658,948,721	1,816,506,392
1899—Jan. 1.	732,080,122	1,897,301,412
April 1.	727,748,501	1,927,846,942
July 1.	734,106,728	1,932,484,239
Oct. 1.	745,234,734	1,948,788,186
1900—Jan. 1.	770,100,621	1,990,508,170
Feb. 1.	804,370,055	2,006,140,355

—American Economist.

Right Sort of Reciprocity.

It is true that as the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and the author of the "McKinley bill" of 1890, Major McKinley did at that time "reciprocity" clause, but the reciprocity which he favored in 1890 was a very different article from that incorporated in the present law. The "reciprocity" of 1890 was a mainly notice to all nations that if they did not treat us fairly we would raise the duties on certain of their products. There was no proposal to lower our duties in any case. By the McKinley bill raw sugar, molasses, coffee, tea and hides were upon the free list, our sugar growers being compensated by a bounty on production, but the President was empowered, whenever satisfied that countries exporting those articles were imposing on United States products duties which under the circumstances were unfair, to promptly impose a "reciprocal" duty on those articles imported from such country. That is not a bad kind of reciprocity, and it is the only kind which Mr. McKinley advocated when in Congress.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Great Years.

The administration has started upon the last year of its present term. The three years past have been the most momentous to the republic of any since the civil war closed. A successful war which covered the country with glory, magnified immensely its prestige and

brought it into new possession of territory, has been fought; the republic has attained to the position of the world's foremost power. To-day the world leans more upon our country, and covets more its good opinion than any other. It comes to us for bread; it comes to us for meat; it comes to us for textiles; it comes for locomotives and bridges, for coal, for silver and for gold. The mines of the Rand and Kimberley are timbered with Oregon fir; the canned fruit and fish which the miner buys in South Africa are American; the railways which haul the food and ammunition for the British, South African and Missouri armies, and just now Russia is borrowing large sums of American gold. The momentum can only be checked by unnatural causes. A plague might do it, or might earthquake; so, possibly, might the combination in war against our country of several foreign powers. But were this last to be tried, how would those countries live without American food? The question of the summer will be whether the administration should be changed; whether unparalleled facts can or cannot be knocked aside by transparent bugbears.

A New Battle Cry.

Jones, of Arkansas, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has sounded a battle cry for his party in the coming campaign. If he can have his way the shibboleth will be, "The Constitution follows the flag." But what will William Jennings Bryan say to that? Of course, Jones had Porto Rico in mind when he gave out the war cry. The Republicans in Congress have insisted that the Constitution does not yet apply to the island dependencies of this government; and that Congress has full power to legislate for the government of those islands, regardless of the Constitution. That proposition has been disputed by the Democrats, who are anxious to have Porto Rico taken into full fellowship at once, believing that such action would embarrass the administration by rendering more difficult the work of establishing a satisfactory government in the island.

But suppose Jones' proposition is accepted as being correct, what will Bryan and the other rabid anti-imperialists in the Democratic party have to say about it? Bryan has insisted that the Constitution does not cover the Philippines. He has declared that we must not accept the Philippines as citizens of the United States; that this government, having assumed sovereignty over the islands, should first put down the rebellion, and then permit the natives to establish a government of their own, independent of the United States. If the Constitution follows the flag, how will Jones, of Arkansas, discriminate between Porto Rico and the Philippines, both of which came to this government under the terms of the peace treaty negotiated with Spain?

Maybe, however, Jones has heard from Bryan, and the "peerless leader" is getting ready to shift his position with respect to imperialism, as he shifts with respect to free trade, and as he is inclined to shift with respect to free silver. It would not be surprising to see the Democratic convention come out in favor of expansion of the most radical sort, now that Jones has suggested a way to make a point against the Republicans. Nobody can ever tell what the Democratic party will do, because it has been on all sides of all questions.—Cleveland Leader.

A Handsome Showing.

The short month of February made a showing in treasury receipts specially gratifying. The receipts from customs run up to the splendid figure of about \$20,000,000, keeping pace with the receipts from internal revenue. Notwithstanding the large pension payments, amounting to more than \$12,000,000, and expenditures of nearly \$4,000,000 with increasing amount of the war and navy appropriations about \$15,000,000, the excess of receipts over expenditures brought a good balance to be added to the surplus of receipts for the current fiscal year. Compared with February of a year ago the customs receipts showed a handsome increase amounting to nearly \$5,000,000.

Ready for All Comers.



SIoux FALLS AUDITORIUM.

able to capture the national convention of the Populist party, which will be held May 9. The Sioux Falls auditorium is a new building. Not until after a delegation of Sioux Falls rustlers, in the fall of 1898, succeeded in capturing the convention of the National Creamery Butter and Associated Association was the construction of the building decided upon. The structure is well arranged and is complete in all its details.

Skeleton of a Mastodon Unearthed.
The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad is spending in the neighborhood of two million dollars in reducing grades and straightening curves on its main line between Chicago and Omaha. At Rome, Iowa, the line crosses the Skunk river, and there a gang of men have been employed excavating for the foundations of a new trestle bridge. At a point fifteen feet below the river bed, under the quicksand and just above the blue clay strata, Foreman Peter Mattson came across a T-shaped bone three feet high and four feet eight inches wide. It was taken out and carried in the tool car to Batavia, where it is now. Those who have since examined the bone pronounce it to be undoubtedly part of the skeleton of an animal of prehistoric times, probably that of a mastodon.

Olds and Ends.

The South Carolina Legislature has voted \$10,000 for a monument at Chickamauga. The Uganda Railroad telegraph line has been completed to the sources of the Nile. There are 52,000 acres of most beautiful forests within the confines of the Yosemite, Gen. Grant and Sequoia National Parks, of California.

Hurt by Prosperity.

Bryan had nothing to say about fifty-cent wheat and the connection between the price of wheat and the price of silver. Prosperity has knocked out a large part of his stock-in-trade.—Jersey City (N. J.) Journal.

Unctions and Euphonisms.

The Boston Herald seems to think that McKinley and Bliss would be a rather more unctious ticket than Bryan and Hogg.—Saratoga Saratogian.

BUSINESS SITUATION.

Chicago Correspondence.

Money has been working a trifle closer lately as a result of the diminishing bank reserves in New York, but general business remains at high water mark. Not only is domestic consumption still on a large scale, but there seems to be an increasing foreign market for all raw materials as well as for manufactured goods. Europe is taking American iron, coal and copper in greater quantities, and the export demand for cotton is such as to be a decided factor in the weakness of sterling exchange. Cotton is higher now than at any time since 1892, and this fact necessarily tends to create optimistic sentiment in the South.

The stock markets, however, continue dull in the face of these trade conditions. Trading is almost entirely of a professional nature, and the price changes are for the most part insignificant. In the case of a few speculative stocks special conditions have operated to bring about decided movements, but, taking the list as a whole, the changes as compared with a week ago are small. In the opinion of experts the situation is not likely to undergo any material change until something more definite is known regarding the operation of the new currency law.

Speculative dealings in wheat were on a moderate scale during the week, and with little effect on the price of that commodity. The contention of the opposing parties in the market have come almost face to face for their usual spring struggle, and neither side seems willing to yield a foot of ground. The enormous crop of Argentina, the coming of which was foretold last November, and which has been in diligent use ever since as a valuable bulwark against the bull, is now being shipped at even a heavier rate than was expected. Every week when the export figures to European ports are made known the bears use them as an additional argument for lower prices, without regard to the liberal use previously made. Europe appears, however, to be in sore straits for immediate supplies, which shipments now being made from Argentina are powerless to alleviate. Chicago being the nearest market from which Liverpool can draw to supply pressing wants, a demand from that port toward the end of the week created a diversion in favor of the bulls, which sent a fair way toward counterbalancing the effect of heavy Argentine shipments.

Corn displayed greater firmness than wheat, its closing price Saturday afternoon showing 1 cent a bushel advance as compared with its value at the end of the previous week. There is plenty of corn coming forward to supply all requirements, but some heavy speculators continue to buy it with such freedom for May and July delivery as to suggest the faith that comes from knowledge of the ultimate insufficiency of supplies at present prices for more distant requirements.

INSURRECTION NOT DEAD.

Philippines Plan Guerrilla Warfare on a Large Scale.

That the trouble in the Philippines is far from ended seems to be the general opinion among leading army officials and prominent business men in the city of Manila. Reports from trustworthy sources show that there is great activity among the insurgents, who are planning to continue the insurrection with guerrilla warfare on a larger scale when the rainy season begins.

Two correspondents of American weeklies who have traveled for a month in Benguet and Ilocos, with letters from insurgent chiefs, going alone fifty miles from garrisons and being everywhere hospitably received, say the people make no secret of their sympathy with the insurrection. Though admitting that the Filipino soldiers abuse them, they still protect these soldiers from the American scouting parties.

While many of the insurgent municipal officers were continued in office on taking the oath of allegiance, residents who are acquainted with them have little faith in their adherence to their promises. All the civil officials of Tarlac, capital of the province of that name, numbering eleven persons, have been arrested and charged with plotting, and two insurgent agents have been captured at Malabon with incriminating papers and \$4,000 collected from the natives.

While some of the municipal governments appear loyal and efficient, one American general declares he believes that the majority in his province are agents of the insurrection.

THE SIOUX FALLS AUDITORIUM.

New Hall in Which Political Conventions Will Be Held.

The Sioux Falls, S. D., auditorium has a seating capacity of about 5,000. Had it not been for possessing this building, which is the largest of the kind in South Dakota, Sioux Falls would not have been able to capture the national convention of the Populist party, which will be held May 9. The Sioux Falls auditorium is a new building. Not until after a delegation of Sioux Falls rustlers, in the fall of 1898, succeeded in capturing the convention of the National Creamery Butter and Associated Association was the construction of the building decided upon. The structure is well arranged and is complete in all its details.

SIoux FALLS AUDITORIUM.

How Long Was Epiphany's Headquarters?

(Until the trip to Tyre and Sidon, spring of A. D. 29.)

Humanity and Divinity of Jesus.

What lessons of the quarter emphasize the humanity of Jesus? Why? What show his divinity? If he had died in the first year of his ministry, how would it have affected his work? If he had accepted the political leadership which the people wished to give him, what would have been the result? What did Jesus mean by "the kingdom of heaven"? Did he mean what we mean by heaven? Was the kingdom of heaven something present or future? (Both in different senses.) How may we enter the kingdom of heaven? Is anybody shut out? Who shuts them out? When will the kingdom of heaven rule the entire world? Why does it not now? Do you suppose Jesus intended his disciples to spend nineteen centuries just getting started in establishing "his kingdom"? Would he be discouraged if he were on earth now? Who is guiding the kingdom to-day? Is he going to let his work be ruined by sin or indifference? Do we know he will reign supreme over all? How do we know it?

Next Lesson.—"The Beatitudes."

Matt. 4: 25-5: 12.

Profit to Factory.

Wearily Wags.—When a lady gives me a meal I allus say: "May your shadow never grow less."

Prayed Peter.—When a lady gives me a meal I allus say: "May your photographs allus need as little touching up as they do at present," and git a quarter in addition.—Puck.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE LESSON.

Reflections of an Elevating Character—Wholesome Food for Thought—Studying the Scriptural Lesson Intelligently and Profitably.

The lesson for March 25 is a review. In again bringing before it the eleven lessons of the first quarter it will be well to spend some time in finding what the class knows about the gospels. Such questions as these may be suggested: How many books have our lessons been from this quarter? What are their names? Why are they called by those names? How did it happen that there were four accounts of Jesus' life? (Compare, though by way of contrast, the various lives of D. L. Moody already issued, compiled from various public sources, while the authorized biography written from private materials of the family is still unpublished.) Would it occur to men immediately after the ascension of Jesus to write and publish biographies of him? Why not? How would the memory of his deeds and words be preserved during the first few years?

How do the first three gospels differ from the fourth? What part of Jesus' ministry is principally narrated in the first three? What in the fourth? How much does John narrate that is in the other three gospels or any of them? (Very little; feeding of 5,000, Jesus walking on water, passion week.) Is any of the gospels evidently written with the main purpose of giving a chronological order? Which comes nearest to it? Which is the briefest gospel? Has Mark anything that is not in either Matthew or Luke? (Scarcely anything beyond added words and phrases.) Has Matthew anything that is not in Mark? (Yes; reports of discourses of Jesus much fuller.) Has Luke anything that none of the others have? (Yes; especially account of Perea, ministry, chapters 10-18: 14.) Has John anything not in the other gospels? (Nearly everything, except passion week.)

Why did not the writers of the gospels get together and compare notes so that they would not "have over" in their narratives? What is the earliest date when the first three gospels may have been written? (None of them in present shape earlier than 60 A. D.) Were the gospels the first New Testament books written? (No; several of Paul's epistles, probably of the year 50, etc., preceded.) What was the purpose of Matthew's gospel? Of Mark's? Of Luke's? Of John's? How does this explain the differences in their contents? Why have our lessons skipped from one gospel to another?

Periods in Life of Jesus.

What are the generally accepted divisions of the life of Jesus? 1. Thirty years of private life. 2. Opening events of the ministry. 3. Early Judean ministry. 4. Galilean ministry, which may be divided. 5. Perea ministry. 6. The last week. 7. The forty days. How many of these periods have we studied? What is the date of the first lesson, the birth of Jesus? What is the probable date of the last four lessons? (A. D. 28, winter and spring.) To what part of Jesus' life do the gospels give the most "propagandistic space"? (The passion week.) What is the next largest space? (Galilean ministry.) Through what stages had Jesus' work passed in Judea? In Galilee? Had he yet reached the height of his popularity?

A Quarter of First Things.

Of what was the birth of Jesus the beginning? Of what was his visit to Jerusalem the beginning? Of what was his preaching of John the beginning? Of what was the baptism of Jesus the beginning? The temptation? Who were the first disciples of Jesus? Who was the first prominent man who came to him for counsel? Of what was the conversation with Nicodemus the beginning in respect to Jesus' teaching? First plain exposition of his mission. What did the conversation at Jacob's well begin in the woman's life? In the city of Sychar? In the history of the Samaritans? What was the first place where Jesus preached in Galilee after his return from Judea? How was he received? How did he begin his ministry in Capernaum? Who was the first publican called? What did Jesus do in his house?

The Geography.

(Have an outline map of Palestine, on paper or blackboard.) Show where Jesus was born. Draw a line from that place to the place where he next went. Draw a line returning to the place he made his home. How did he live there during that time where did he go at least eighteen times? Where did John the Baptist preach? Where was Jesus baptized? Where (approximately) was he tempted? Where did Jesus go after the temptation? Where next? What miracle did he do in Cana? Where did he go from Cana? (John 4: 12.) Where did he go at Passover time, A. D. 27? Where did he talk with Nicodemus? From Jerusalem where did he go? How long did Jesus stay in Judea? (From Passover till about December, A. D. 27.) What route did Jesus take on his way to Galilee? What other route might he have taken? Where did he stop on the way? Where was John the Baptist imprisoned? (At the fortress of Machabrus, on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea.) Where did Jesus go on his arrival in Galilee? (John 4: 46.) Where next?

How long was Capernaum his headquarters? (Until the trip to Tyre and Sidon, spring of A. D. 29.)

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STATE CAPITAL.

Advance sheets of the forthcoming report covering the Michigan business of life, casualty and industrial companies for the year ended Dec. 31, 1899, have been completed by Commissioner Stevens. The statistics show an increase of business over the preceding year. During the year three old-life life, three casualty, seven co-operative and four fraternal companies were authorized to commence business in the State. The old-life companies during the year wrote in Michigan 17,241 policies and \$26,935,541.71 of insurance. They had in force in the State at the close of the year 74,704 policies and \$140,055,515.77 of insurance. The amount of premiums collected during the year was \$5,223,674.10, and the total losses paid amounted to \$2,084,107.93. A total of 58,089 policies were written by the industrial companies, the insurance amounting to \$6,061,409, and these companies had in force in the State at the end of the year 111,783 policies and \$12,217,836 of insurance. They collected a total of \$135,022.24 in premiums and paid \$89,207.50 in losses. An aggregate of \$100,171,061.67 of insurance was written by the casualty, fidelity and miscellaneous companies, divided as follows: Accident, \$62,361,082; surety, employers' liability and fidelity, \$27,440,524.82; plate glass, \$1,221,507; miscellaneous, \$8,149,049. The premium collected by these companies amounted to \$505,155.63, and the losses paid to \$103,740.16. The total Michigan business of old-life companies, including the industrial business of such companies, was: Insurance written during the year, \$32,096,350.71; in force at end of year, \$158,272,550.77; premiums collected, \$5,223,674.10; losses incurred, \$2,197,693.67. These figures indicate the following increases over the same items of 1898: Insurance written, \$1,840,658.71; in force, \$18,549,223.77; premiums, \$308,002.34; losses, \$390,370.67.

County treasurers and their deputies cannot purchase tax titles and hold their jobs, or the reverse, is more nearly correct. In the case of Wait against Gardner, decided by the Supreme Court, it is that "county treasurers and their deputies have certain duties to perform for the benefit of the public, which preclude them from becoming proprietors of State lands." The Supreme Court reasons that the treasurer and his deputies are to make the sales to one who will take the land and pay the tax, that if the officers are interested in purchasing the State bids they may give wrong information, and that, as they are on the inside, they have an opportunity to take advantage of the information.

The State forestry commission, which was recently organized with the election of Charles W. Garfield as president and Land Commissioner Sprick as secretary, has issued a circular in which the cooperation of the public spirit citizens of the State in the prosecution of its work is asked. The commissioners will be grateful for any suggestions to aid in formulating for presentation to the next Legislature a definite forest policy for the State. Letters may be addressed to individual members of the commission at their home addresses, or to the Michigan Forestry Commission, Lansing, Mich. Correspondence upon all phases of the forest question in our State is earnestly solicited.

Previous to Jan. 1 Michigan had paid \$185,000 for indigent Spanish war soldiers for medical attendance, nursing, board, etc., while such after returning from the front. This being insufficient to meet all the claims, an additional appropriation of \$40,000 was made and the soldiers were given until March 1 in which to file their claims. These aggregate \$235,000 and the payment is being made on the basis of 47 per cent, leaving the next Legislature to provide for the payment of the remainder.

The cost of the State tax commission is getting to be quite large. During the past month the registers of deeds and other county officers who have furnished lists of mortgages and other information have been paid, and the total expenses of the commission for the month were \$8,000. A large number of clerks are now being employed by the commission, and if the growth of the business continues as it has in the past it will soon exceed in point of expense any other department in the capital, save that of the Attorney General.

Census Supervisor Chilson, who has recently returned from Washington, says the industrial statistics for the year 1899 will form a large part of the work of the census. Every industry employing two or more persons is denominated a manufacturing establishment, and a number of special canvassers must be employed to make a complete canvass of all such establishments.

The work of wiring the State House at Lansing has been under way since early in the winter, and will not be completed for two or three months. It is a most complete job, and the estimated cost of the improvement is about \$12,000.

State Oil Inspector Judson has turned into the State treasury \$532.74, which represents the net earnings of his department for the last two quarters of 1899.

For the first time in the history of Michigan, the Auditor General's office closed its books on the last day of February with the account of every county in the State absolutely settled.

The Central Michigan Agricultural Society has formally decided its claim in the old State fair grounds in Lansing, of the city of Lansing, reserving the right to hold fairs on the grounds at any time. Steps will be taken to hold a fair this year.

Jackrabbit Sausage.

A jack rabbit sausage factory is to be started in Kansas, in order to utilize the heavy and yearly increasing crop of this creature.

Bread 600 Years Old.

A loaf of bread 600 years old is something of an antiquity. Such a loaf is to be found at Amboston, in Derbyshire, England. It was included in a grant of land from the crown in the reign of King John, and has remained in the Spear family ever since.—Youth's Companion.

Chili's Agricultural Progress.

Scientific agriculture is making greater progress in Chili, perhaps, than in any other country except the United States, especially in rural economy, arboriculture and viticulture.

The Avalanche.

THURSDAY, MAR. 22, 1900.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Muresco is the best Wall Finish in the market. Sold by Colter & Co.

Pay your subscription and subscribe for the Household.

BORN—March 19th, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stephan, a daughter; weight 10 pounds.

Subscribe for "The Avalanche" and "The Household." Only \$1.25 per year.

J. W. Breaker of Cheney, came up in the storm, Saturday, but was happy a successful farmer ought to be.

Peninsular Stoves and Ranges guaranteed the best. Sold by A. KRAUS.

Dr. A. J. Schockley, of Gaylord, has been appointed a member of the Board of Pension examiners in place of Dr. Hatt, removed.

Hair-dressing and shampooing. Also switches made to order. Prices reasonable. Satisfaction guaranteed. feb22-4t Miss EDITH BALLARD.

\$2.00 pair of Kid Gloves for 10c. Send stamp for particulars to K. W. Nobles Importing Co., 42 River St. Chicago.

W. H. Sherman of Maple Forest has moved to Central Lake. He will be missed from his old neighborhood where he has lived from infancy.

MARRIED—At Beaver Creek, Saturday, March 10th, John Hanna and Miss Huldah Charters, of Toledo, Ohio. David Raymond, J. P., officiating.

The financial success of the lecture course is such that we are assured of an extra evening's pleasure. Thanks to the management and the excellent entertainments given.

J. W. Sorenson is agent for the sale of the best Sewing Machines in the market. Machines guaranteed. Call and examine machines, and get prices.

Supervisor Deckrow, of Maple Forest, was in town last Friday, doing business. His left eye has been practically blind for a week. It has been weak for years.

A letter from J. K. Merz states that his family will be with him in their new home in Millersburg this week. He seems satisfied with their surroundings and business prospects.

Orders for parts of all kinds, and for all kinds of Sewing Machines will have special attention at J. W. Sorenson's. He also keeps a good assortment of Machine Needles.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church realized over twenty dollars from their supper at W. R. C. hall, last Thursday, besides enjoying an immense social time.

FOR SALE—Cheaper than to pay rent, one of the coziest homes in Grayling, in good repair, and nicely situated. Also a fine six octave organ. Enquire at the "Avalanche" office.

The Band Concert, last week, was an unmeasured success. The boys were resplendent in their new uniforms, the music rendered was fine and a large crowd exhibited the appreciation of our people.

We hope every farmer on the "Plains" as well as on the heavy lands will try at least one acre of Bromus Inermis this year. We believe it to be the best grass in the world for hay or pasture, in this section.

Next week the Methodist and Presbyterian churches will be together in union meetings, preparatory to the meetings which begin April 1st. The meetings will be held in the Presbyterian church.

There is an unusual demand for wise, tactful evangelists. We have heard many inquire during the past few months. Such men as Major Cole and Rev. H. M. Morey need no recommendation. — Michigan Presbyterian.

Eugene McKay had the misfortune to lose a good horse, last week. The team was at work in the woods, when a load of logs got the start of them on a steep grade, and one of the horses was killed.

Mrs. S. Hempstead wishes to announce to the ladies of Grayling that she has on hand for sale a complete line of hair goods and ladies' toilet articles which she will be pleased to show to any one at her home on Cedar Street.

The banquet given by the K. O. T. M., last Saturday evening, was a success. Great Lieut. Com. Devere Hall, of Bay City was present, and delivered a fine address. Speeches were also made by Sir Knights Alexander and Patterson. About 150 Sir Knights and Members of the K. O. T. M., with their husbands and wives sat down to supper and pronounced it a grand anniversary meeting.

Mrs. Griffin of St. Charles will organize a Circle of Ladies of the G. A. R. this afternoon at W. R. C. hall. This organization is confined to wives sisters or daughters of soldiers of the war of the rebellion.

Under a recent ruling of the government stage drivers on all mail routes, who charge for carrying packages, must issue a receipt for each package and place thereon a one cent revenue stamp.

Hon. H. H. Woodruff, of Roseman, was the only foreign attorney at the special term of our Circuit Court, last week. He conducted the defense in the Heat case. A genial gentleman and always welcome here.

Dr. Insley know how it is himself. A sharp attack of pneumonia, last week, put him in his wife's hands, and she made him take some of his own medicine. He survived and is on deck again, attending to business though not fully recovered.

The electric light at the Opera House, Friday evening, had on a singing and sputtering fit, which was met with witty remarks from Mr. Brooks, and suggestions for improvement in the lighting of the hall, which we hope may be heeded.

Any person troubled with headache, dizziness, weak eyes or failing vision can find a remedy by wearing specially ground glasses. Call at Dr. Insley's office March 27 and 28, and consult J. Leahy, the expert optician, who comes prepared to fit any eyes that can be fitted. Fitting children's eyes a specialty. 2w

An accumulation of my regular business demands my undivided attention, so that I am obliged to discontinue further calls in medical practice, and I earnestly advise my friends to select for themselves any one of the more able practitioners here of whom there are sufficient to cover the territory of this vicinity. O. PALMER.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wheeler, 117 Avery avenue, were given a surprise party Thursday evening in honor of the twenty-third anniversary of their wedding. Twenty couples were present, including Mrs. Wheeler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wild, and a sister Mrs. Merrill. —Det. Tribune.

Time must be a slipping. It seems but a few days since Mrs. Wheeler was Charles's young bride, living here with Mr. and Mrs. Wild.

The concert given by the Grayling Cornet Band was a success musically and financially. A large and appreciative audience listened to a program which in itself was sufficient evidence of the wonderful progress which they have made, and it was rendered in a manner that would have been creditable to a band of greater age than our own. The writer has heard bands in many cities and considers their work equal to that of the average band after years of training.

The entertainment in the lecture course by Fred Emerson Brooks, last Friday evening, was well attended, and thoroughly enjoyed by all, as attested by the undivided attention of the audience. Mr. Brooks, known as the California Poet, recites his own verse, with finely modulated voice and magnetic delivery, changing from grave to gay, and carrying his hearers with him in every mood. In dialect and as an impersonator, he is well nigh perfect, and the repeated encores held him for over two hours. The two closing poems, "The Miracle of Canaan," and "Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg" seemed better than the first, though adverse criticism could not attach to any.

EDITOR AVALANCHE:—Our Grayling Band boys on Wednesday of last week again gave us an exhibition of what they can do in the way of making music, and I was very much pleased to notice a decided gain in their work. One who is hypercritical could without doubt find mistakes they made; but when we understand that the boys are new to the business and have had only about five months of training, it is difficult to understand how they could do so much better than they did.

I was much pleased to again notice the balance of their instrumentation and especially the very good work they did in the way of expression.

I thought I could decidedly notice again in confidence and familiarity with their instruments, and when they have conquered them they will do as well as any amateur band I am certain.

The expression with which they rendered the American Patrol, and the excellent work done in the baritone solo is especially to be commended.

Taking everything into consideration I think they show every indication of having been very well trained, and that both the boys and their master are to be heartily congratulated.

The ladies were in excellent voice, and received deserved encores. They pleased us well as they always do.

The orchestra did fair work but can do better.

MUSIC LOVER.

Ralston Breakfast Food

One cup cooks enough for five people

One cup RALSTON BREAKFAST FOOD and 6 cups of boiling water—cost 3c.—will make a delicious breakfast in five minutes for five persons.

FOR SALE BY **Claggett & Blair.**

Banker Bouts a Robber

J. R. Garrison, cashier of the bank of Thornville, Ohio, had been robbed of health by a serious lung trouble until he tried Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption. Then he wrote: "It is the best medicine I ever used for a severe cold or a bad case of lung trouble. I always keep a bottle on hand." Don't suffer with coughs, colds, or any throat, chest or lung trouble when you can be cured so easily. Only 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Fournier's drug store.

Republican Caucus.

Notice is hereby given that a caucus of the Republican voters of Grayling township will be held at the Court House, on Monday evening, March 26th, 1900, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of nominating a township ticket, to elect delegates to the county convention and to transact such other business as may come before it. By order of township committee. Dated, March 13th, 1900. R. D. CONNINE, CHAIRMAN. JOHN C. HANSON, Sec'y.

A Fiendish Attack.

An attack was lately made on C. F. Collier of Cherokee, Iowa, that nearly proved fatal. It came through his kidneys. His back got so lame he could not stoop without great pain nor sit in a chair except propped by cushions. No remedy helped him until he tried Electric Bitters which effected such a wonderful change that he writes he feels like a new man. This marvelous medicine cures backache and kidney trouble, purifies the blood and builds up your health. Only 50c at Fournier's drug store.

Democrat o-Peoples-Union - Silver Caucus.

There will be a Democratic-Peoples-Union-Silver Caucus at the town hall in the township of Grayling, on Monday evening, March 26th, 1900, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of placing in nomination a township ticket, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before it. There will be important business to attend to and a large attendance is desired. By order of Com. C. O. McCULLOUGH. A. E. NEWMAN. WM. WHEELER.

He Fooled the Surgeons

All doctors told Renick Hamilton, of West Jefferson, O., after suffering 18 months from rectal fistula, he would die unless a costly operation was performed; but he cured himself with Bucklen's Arnica Salve, the best in the world. Surest cure on earth. 25c a box at Fournier's drug store.

Notice of Teachers' Examination.

Teachers' examination will be held at the school house Thursday and Friday, March 30 and 31. FLORA M. MARVIN, Com.

What's Your Face Worth?

Sometimes a fortune, but never if you have a sallow complexion, a jaundiced face, moth patches and blotches on the skin all signs of Liver Trouble. Dr. King's New Life Pills give clear skin, rosy cheeks, rich complexion. Only 25c at Fournier's drug store.

CLAGGETT & BLAIR

Headquarters for This Part of the Earth.

And don't you be the last person in the world to find out where the best goods are sold cheap.

We have a complete line of Staple and Fancy Groceries, consisting of new Teas and Coffees, Pure Spices and Canned Goods.

Their specialties are "Ye Old Fashioned Japan Tea" at 50 cents, Royal Java and Mocha at 35 cents; Ja-vo Blend, the best 25 cents coffee on earth; McArthur's Patent, the best flour in the city for bread; Pure Lard, Hams, Shoulders and Bacon.

For the best of everything at fair figures go to **CLAGGETT & BLAIR.**

SYRUP

WILD CHERRY

FOR COUGHS AND BRONCHITIS

BRONCHITIS,

HOARSENESS,

LOSS OF VOICE,

Irritability of the Larynx and Fances,

And other Inflamed Conditions of the Lungs and Air Passages.

For sale by L. FOURNIER

C. C. WESCOTT DENTIST. GRAYLING, MICHIGAN.

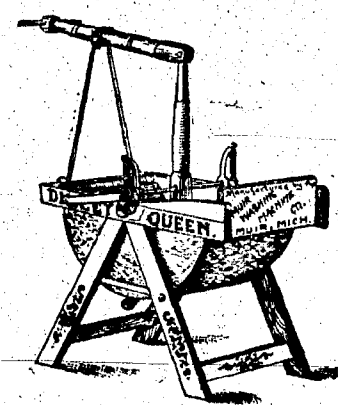
Office Over Alexander's law office, on Michigan Avenue. Office hours 9 to 12 a. m. and 2 to 6 p. m.

W.B. FLYNN, Dentist

WEST BRANCH, MICH. WILL make regular trips to Grayling the 10th of each month, remaining for three days. Office with Dr. Insley.

Dilley Queen

Washing Machine, Cloth Wringer and Drying Bars.



Maple Sugar and Fruit Evaporators, Sap Pails and Spiles.

"Sunlight Gas Generators",

For Lighting Hotels, Public Buildings and private Residences.

The above goods are the best and latest improved on the market. Testimonials on application.

M. S. DILLEY & CO., FREDERIC, MICH.

Room! Room!

We must make room for our

New Spring Stock,

and to do so we offer our entire stock for less money than it can be bought for anywhere else. Below we will give you a few items:

Prints, worth 5, 6, and 7c, for 5c	Men's all wool Pants, \$1.25
Brown Cotton, worth 6c & 7c, for 5c	Men's Merino Under Shirts, 10c
Forales, 36 inches, for 5c	Men's Black Rib Overalls, 37 1/2c
Apron Gingham, only 5c	Men's Blue Overalls, from 35 to 45c
Cream Outing Flannel, 4c	Men's all wool \$8.00 Suits, \$3.90
Toweling, worth 5c, 3 1/2c	Men's Cashmere Suits, all wool, worth \$8.00, for \$4.95
Ladies Fleece Underwear, 2 1/2c	Men's Beaver Overcoats, \$3.65
Childrens Fleece Underwear, 1 1/2c	

We have no space to mention other Bargains, but every thing will go in proportion. Remember the place.

JOSEPH'S CASH STORE,

ALWAYS THE CHEAPEST.

(Opposite Bank.)

Grayling, Michigan.

Sewing Machines.

Just received a lot of Sewing Machines direct from the factory, which we can sell from \$21.00 to \$35.00 each. Cheaper machines can be had to order.

Always on hand the best SEWING MACHINE OIL, guaranteed not to gum. Price 10 cents.

J. W. SORENSON.

Blumenthal

—AND—

Baumgart,

THE BIG

One Price For All Store

We are receiving daily new goods, in Dry Goods, Embroideries, Laces, Trimmings, Jets &c. Men's, Boys and Children's Clothing, and you will always find something new the next time you visit us, as we are adding constantly to our already large stock.

You will find trading with us profitable to you and our goods are marked low enough to defy competition. A trial will convince you to the correctness of our statement.

Respectfully Yours

BLUMENTHAL & BAUMGART.

THE BIG STORE.

Grayling, Mich.

We carry a stock of goods valued at \$1,500,000.00

We receive from 10,000 to 25,000 letters every day

We own and occupy the tallest mercantile building in the world. We have over 2,000,000 customers. Sixteen hundred clerks are constantly engaged filling out-of-town orders.

OUR GENERAL CATALOGUE is the book of the people—it quotes Wholesale Prices to Everybody, has over 1,000 pages, 16,000 illustrations, and 50,000 descriptions of articles with prices. It costs 72 cents to print and mail each copy. We want you to have one. SEND FIFTEEN CENTS to show your good faith and we'll send you a copy FREE, with all charges prepaid.

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO. Michigan Ave. and Madison Street CHICAGO

AFTER WAR THE SONG OF PEACE.

Dark drifts of clouds shut out the sky,
The air is rent with sounds of strife;
My brother marches forth to die,
Or take some fellow mortal's life—
The peace the world has waited for
Shrinks pale behind the skirts of War!

Across the plains the ruts are deep
Where engines of destruction passed;
The blinds are drawn where orphans weep,
And blood is flowing free and fast;
The hills give back the cannon's roar;
The Song of Peace is heard no more!

My brother mocks me in his heart,
I blame him for the stand he takes;
The world Christ saved is rent apart,
And every tie that bound us breaks!
The war god shrieks, the sabre gleams,
And crimson streaks are in the streams.

But God was reigning in the sky
When David went to smite his foe;
And God is reigning still on high,
And still inspiring men below!
And when the sounds of battle cease,
And when the work of War is o'er,
Then shall the hopeful Song of Peace
Swell higher, clearer than before!
—S. E. Kiser, in Chicago Times-Herald.

The Smuggler's Stratagem

HOW HE SAVED HIS TRUNKFUL OF DIAMONDS.

When Capt. Owens, recently retired from the command of a transatlantic greyhound, joined the little circle of men seated around the stove in a downtown shipping office, where they had spent the greater part of the afternoon discussing rates for overseas freight, marine insurance and other interests of the maritime world, the conversation naturally turned to the grave responsibility resting upon the captain of a modern ocean liner. They talked of the thousands of human lives which are annually entrusted to his care; of dreary hours on the bridge, when the white fog hangs and wind moans of the shipwreck and the drowned, or when the winter gale is whistling and the icy spoon-drift battles against the funnels. They talked of the sudden derelict and the iceberg, which so often defy the skill and watchfulness of the transatlantic captain. "Is it any wonder then," said one of the circle, "that a skipper's hair is white before he is fifty and that his face is as wrinkled as a crumpled bank note. Look at Capt. Owens. Looks ten years older than he really is, I'll warrant."

"Well, gentlemen," replied the captain, with a twinkle in his gray eyes which seemed out of keeping with the general trend of the conversation, "it is a wearing life; there's no getting away from that fact. Yes, you have got to think pretty quick at times, and sometimes you have to act before you think. Speaking on this strain reminds me of how Capt. Blank of the Nereid once saved his vessel and the lives of all on board by acting promptly in an emergency. Capt. Blank is not very proud of the whole affair, and I doubt if he ever told it to any one. At all events he never received a vote of thanks suitably engrossed from the passengers, but perhaps he was not much disappointed." After this preliminary the captain told the story, which in substance is as follows:

Just before the Imperial Line steamship Nereid, Capt. Blank, pulled out of its dock in Liverpool for New York City, some years ago, a thick-set man with a heavy black mustache ran up the gang-plank and gazed anxiously at the passengers, who were crowded along the rail watching the bustle and confusion on the dock. He evidently found the person for whom he was looking, for he gave a sigh of satisfaction, rushed down the gang-plank and sent a cablegram. Then he boarded the vessel again, secured a stateroom and did not appear on deck nor at the seat assigned to him at the dining table in the saloon until the vessel was well out to sea. He registered under the name of James Sweeney.

This is the cablegram he sent: Collector of Port at New York:

"James Packard, smuggler, on board steamship Nereid. Thousand of dollars' worth of diamonds concealed in small trunk. Will arrest him at quarantine. McGRATH, Inspector."

The inspector's cablegram caused much satisfaction among the revenue officers in the city; for diamonds had long been leaking into this country from England and the dispatch gave evidence that no mistake had been made when McGrath was selected to cross the ocean and hunt the smugglers down. Meanwhile the Nereid ploughed her way through the waters of the North Atlantic and on the third day out she had made such good time that the captain began to look for a record-breaking voyage, while the passengers, no less eager, made bets regarding the exact time that would elapse before the vessel arrived abreast of the Sandy Hook Lightship. Packard, who was known about the ship as Thomas Gray, a broker, was the most gentlemanly of smugglers, and his engaging conversation and polished manners made him the life of his table and established him as a prime favorite among the passengers in general. McGrath, known to the passengers as Sweeney, was not so popular. No one knew anything about him or his business, and moreover, he ate with his knife. And then, too, his eyes had a suspiciously cunning cast which set him down in the minds of many as a professional gambler. But the inspector did not care. In fact, he was supremely happy; for he had forced an entrance into Gray's stateroom with the aid of a skeleton key during the smuggler's absence and had located the small trunk. That was all he wanted. When the time came he would seize the trunk, point Gray out to the in-

OLD IDEAS REVIVED.

FORMER FRIENDS RESTORED TO FASHIONABLENESS.

The Blouse, the Over-Shoulder Yoke and the All-Around Long Skirt Still Survive—Hints on Spring Styles in New York City.

New York correspondence:

ROUGHT into renewed fashionability by the spring styles are a lot of ideas, so familiar as to count as old friends. Here and there are touches that serve to differentiate the new from the old, but the original is apparent nevertheless. These styles will be a great comfort to the countless women who do not like to be called on every year or two for a right-about. They can cling to what they think is best, and yet in a quiet way can mark it as new and stylish. Blouse waists are one of the welcome continuities. Dress designers have surren-

dered completely in respect to blouses. Once they said that they were away out of fashion. Now they would not have it. So now the fashion makers have admitted blouse finery of many sorts.

The blouse is emphatic, too. The tight back and blouse front is quite gone. Bodices are either tight all around or light at the back and straight in front, or else they are blouse all around. In the latter case the blouse hangs straight in boxy fashion, quite free of the belt. The present craze for tucks lends itself especially well to such a bodice. The correct cut makes the tucks hang perpendicularly from the bust line and turn under sharply at the belt. The same effect is produced under the arms and at the back. Such a bodice is usually worn with rather a wide belt, and that is an added stylish touch, for wide belts are in great favor. A pretty bodice on this order is sketched here. It was once called a "paula" cloth. A lace yoke extended over the shoulders and was one with the sleeves. The skirt was tucked at back

and sides, and insertions of lace were run at either side of its front. A dash of black is desirable in such gowns, and in this case it came in the wide belt and in rosettes on the shoulders and along the edge of the yoke. This general scheme is one that permits of many alterations, so it may be said that the blouse question is cared for satisfactorily in the spring fashions.

Another admirable hold-over is the yoke that extends over the shoulders, and the spring gown's yoke may even make the upper part of the sleeve. The first gown described showed one admissible form of this idea. Another appears at the left in the next illustration. Other pleasing features that this picture points are that the skirt need not have an exaggerated train, and that its trimming may be held flat to the knee, or to within a half or quarter of a yard of the foot. Alternate pleats may spring free half way down the skirt, and the trimmer run further. The skirt may be trimmed with broad stitching, or the foot of the pleats. If only there are pleats you are all right. The very delicate light-weight cloth so popular this season is especially adapted to such use. This gown was

found in light-weight poplin of the shade of seralet that is going to be much worn. The yoke was white silk embroidered in black, and black velvet bands trimmed the skirt and the top of the bodice.

These all-around long skirts have increased in favor. It is considered the proper thing to cut a house skirt so long that it lies in folds on the top of the foot as the wearer walks. At least, that is where the extra-length folds had better lie when she walks or she will come to ungraceful grief. With house dresses it is the rule to give either a dash of black or of Persian coloring. Many of the machine places make a specialty of knotting fringe to the edge of goods, and it is very swaggy to trim a gown with bands of Persian colored velvet edged with fringe showing colors to match those in the stamper of the material. It is astonishing how much distinction a few such bands properly disposed will give to an otherwise very simple gown. The second of these three dresses, for instance, was white serge finished with Persian panne velvet and fringe to match. Of itself simple in the extreme, the gown became a perfect beauty with the addition of the indicated trimming.

White as a summer color is a hold-over from many seasons. There is promise for the coming summer of more than usual of it. Even now thoughtful designers are buying now house gowns with a view to their use later as garden dresses. White cloth, white serge, white linen and pique, as well as cashmere, silk and poplin, are all employed. Another sign of judicious choice is the tendency toward rather simple outlines. This right hand dress is simple in the extreme, the gown became a perfect beauty with the addition of the indicated trimming.

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found in light-weight poplin of the shade of seralet that is going to be much worn. The yoke was white silk embroidered in black, and black velvet bands trimmed the skirt and the top of the bodice.

These all-around long skirts have increased in favor. It is considered the proper thing to cut a house skirt so long that it lies in folds on the top of the foot as the wearer walks. At least, that is where the extra-length folds had better lie when she walks or she will come to ungraceful grief. With house dresses it is the rule to give either a dash of black or of Persian coloring. Many of the machine places make a specialty of knotting fringe to the edge of goods, and it is very swaggy to trim a gown with bands of Persian colored velvet edged with fringe showing colors to match those in the stamper of the material. It is astonishing how much distinction a few such bands properly disposed will give to an otherwise very simple gown. The second of these three dresses, for instance, was white serge finished with Persian panne velvet and fringe to match. Of itself simple in the extreme, the gown became a perfect beauty with the addition of the indicated trimming.

White as a summer color is a hold-over from many seasons. There is promise for the coming summer of more than usual of it. Even now thoughtful designers are buying now house gowns with a view to their use later as garden dresses. White cloth, white serge, white linen and pique, as well as cashmere, silk and poplin, are all employed. Another sign of judicious choice is the tendency toward rather simple outlines. This right hand dress is simple in the extreme, the gown became a perfect beauty with the addition of the indicated trimming.

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AN OBLIGING LANDLORD.

Keeps Ferrets to Clear Out the Rats When They Annoy Guests.

"Recently I had an experience with rats that I will not soon forget," said D. R. Purks of Fredericksburg, Va.

"It happened in this way: I was traveling through Alabama, and landed in a small town, worn out after a day's overland travel in a broken-down buggy, and sought the only tavern the town boasted. After I had been in bed about fifteen minutes I was startled to hear strange and curious noises—the most unnatural in sound I had ever heard. I immediately proceeded to investigate the cause of this midnight disturbance and lit the candle, the only illuminant procurable, and to my surprise beheld ten of the largest rats, in my opinion, ever seen. They ranged in size from an average squirrel to an ordinary dog. Not the least fear was manifested by these rats. They deliberately surveyed me and continued the work of eating my shoes. One large fellow, evidently master of ceremonies, was bold enough to attempt to bite me. This affront was more than I could stand. Jumping back into bed, I screamed for the landlord, who, after being awakened from a drunken sleep, slowly shuffled up to this chamber of horrors, dignified as a room, and contemptuously inquired the cause of the trouble. He 'allowed' he would settle it in short order. In about ten minutes rats poured into the room in droves to the number of about one hundred and fifty; all sizes and conditions, large and small, lean and fat, all squeaking and apparently frightened. I thought 'something unusual must have transpired, when my suspicions were confirmed by the arrival of several ferrets whose eyes sparkled with glee at the slaughter they proceeded to institute.

"As soon as I collected myself after the execution I hastened out of the room, and made myself as comfortable as possible in a chair, waiting for day to break, that I could shake the towel. Although I made my escape in carpet slippers, it was one of the happiest incidents of my life. The landlord evidently thought nothing of the occurrence. He said it happened very often, and he always kept a supply of ferrets to clean the rats out when they became unmanageable and too annoying to his guests."—Washington Post.

CUBAN HOSPITALITY.

Result of a Hot Midwinter Tramp From Santiago to Havana.

We quote the closing paragraphs of an account, in the Century, by H. Phelps Whitman, author of "The World's Rough Land," of a hot midwinter tramp from Santiago to Havana:

"Although the entering of a city at night and on foot was no new thing for either of us, yet at that time, after forty-six days on the road, and after having walked seven hundred and fifty miles with that particular city as our goal, we looked at the mysterious air of light in the heavens before us with a strange pleasure not unmixed with exultation; for not only had we accomplished what we had set out to do with safety and in perfect health, but we also had that peculiar masculine satisfaction of knowing that we were the first white men to travel through Cuba on foot.

As soon as we crossed the bridge at Guanabacoa we saw the electric lights of Havana in circles, squares, and seemingly endless rows. The whole city was ablaze. The placid waters of the harbor over which we looked were shot with silvery streamers. For the remaining four miles we forgot our sore feet, our weariness, even our hunger, and stepped along at a gait in keeping with our lively spirits. At every turn we found evidence that we were again entering civilization: first a great, white-walled fort guarding the road; then brightly lighted carriages; later a paved street, and at last a horse-car. Then from the suburban gloom we suddenly emerged into a busy thoroughfare. We had made forty miles that day, and were in Havana.

"But what our joyous voices were quickly snuffed in the wind. Before we had gone a block a small man with a large whistle appeared at Balmain's head. He looked at us suspiciously for a moment, then whistled twice. As if by magic four policemen appeared. In vain we protested, threatened, and furnished handfuls of papers under the little man's nose. Our looks were against us. With a jubilant negro crowd surrounding us, we were marched off ignominiously to the police-station for the seventh time, and 'run in,' mule, dog, and all, for the night. Thus even to the last we were the recipients of the one thing above all others that a stranger notices in Cuba—its boundless hospitality.

The Fastest Growing Lily on Record.

Captain S. R. Vaughn of Philadelphia has a plant that grows at the rate of nine inches every twenty-four hours. This remarkable bit of vegetation is called the "snake lily," and came from Cochiti, China. When it arrived in America it was simply an ugly looking bulb, resembling a huge Indian turnip. It lay nearly all winter in a dark closet, but with the approach of spring began to manifest signs of life. It was taken from its resting place and put in a peach basket, with nothing about it but some newspapers. Very soon a motheaten green stalk pushed out of the bulb, and in a few days had reached a height of eight feet. Of this hotheat blossom, which was a beautiful dark maroon color, comprised four feet. After the blossom had withered and died the bulb was planted, and from it grew a host of giant umbrellalike leaves, which reached their maturity in July and August. In September the leaves perished and left nothing but a new fat bulb. This was stored away in a dark place, and again next spring the bulb will be brought to light and pass through its time of flower and growth.

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TRIED THE CHINESE WAY.

Paid His Doctor Only When Well, but the Plan Had Its Drawbacks.

"The Chinese system of paying their physicians while the patient keeps well and shutting off the bill when he gets sick always struck me as being singularly sensible," said one of the tenants of a big New Orleans office building. "You see, it gives a doctor every incentive to make an unavoidable illness as brief as possible, while our method of paying while we are disabled offers just the opposite inducement. Of course, I don't mean to say that any reputable practitioner would deliberately keep a patient laid up for the sake of his fee, but the temptation is certainly mighty strong, and last New Year's, after settling a whopping big bill for the preceding quarter, I made up my mind to give the Chinese method a trial—just as an interesting experiment.

"I was afraid to make the proposition to my regular physician, who's a very stiff-necked old timer, and would probably have brained me with a stethoscope under the impression that I was impugning his honor, so I hunted up a very earnest, able young doctor whom I knew to be struggling hard to get a foothold, and laid the scheme before him. 'I'm in delicate health,' I said, and your profession generally gets a good deal of my money from one year's end to another, besides penning me up in bed and preventing me from attending to business. Now, I'll give you \$12.50 a month as long as you keep me well. If I get sick your pay stops until I'm up again. I thought a moment and accepted."

"Well, how did it turn out?" asked one of a group of listeners. "I'm just coming to that," replied the speaker. "For a week or so it worked all right. The doctor dropped in once or twice to look me over casually, and I had a pleasant feeling that some one was vitally interested in seeing that I kept well. Then came the first unpleasant experience. We had a rainy day, and I was hurrying up Canal street toward the office when a man suddenly pounced on me and dragged me into a hallway. It was the doctor. 'Good heavens!' he fairly yelled, 'where are your rubbers?' 'I don't know,' I stammered, startled half out of my wits. 'Then give me the money to buy you a pair at once,' he said, 'or you'll be down with pneumonia and I'll lose a whole month's wages.' He was so fierce that I shelled out and missed several important engagements while I waited.

"A few nights afterward I was quietly eating a rum omelette restaurant when who should rush up but that same confounded doctor. 'Rum omelette,' he grasped, turning pale as death. 'Why, man alive! do you want to take the bread right out of my mouth?' And with that he grabbed the omelette and ordered me some tea and toast. 'Your digestive organs are very sensitive,' he said, 'and an attack of gastritis would mean \$8 or \$10 out of my pocket. I'm a poor man,' said he, 'and I can't afford to take any such chances. It wouldn't be just to my family.'

"I ate the tea and toast, which I abominated, and began to wonder whether the Chinese system was quite as much of a cinch as it seemed at long range. Well, I won't bore you with all the details, but I give you my word that for the next two weeks I suffered martyrdom. That infernal doctor was continually bolting up at unexpected places, determined to keep me well or perish in the attempt. At last he passed the limit. I was at the theatre with a party of friends, and by some horrible fatality he was sitting in the next row. He kept shifting about uneasily, and finally, right in the midst of the performance, he leaned over and whispered hoarsely: 'Say did you remember to put on your chest protector?' Everybody near us tittered, and I yearned for his gore.

"Next day I fired him. I have gone back to the old system. It's crude, I admit, and open to abuses, but that man's rampant solitariness was undermining my health."

THE CONVENIENT NEW CORK TILING.

A product called cork tiling has recently been placed upon the market which is made of what is known to the trade as "virgin cork," ground, compressed, and otherwise treated by a patented process, and which is free from the cement and glue usually employed to hold the particles together. We are informed that tiles made of this pure, compressed cork form an admirable flooring, which, besides being noiseless, water proof, warm and germ proof, is capable of withstanding hard usage. By varying the degree of compression and modifying the manufacturing process slightly, sheets of cork different in color and density are obtained, which when sawed and finished in the form of panels, can be used for wainscoting alone, or in connection with cork tile floors. Cork compressed into sheets and sawed to the size and thickness desired constitutes a very efficient pulley covering. It is said that a pulley covered with lagged with compressed cork will transmit from fifty to sixty per cent. more power with the same tension of belt than one having only a smooth iron surface.—Scientific American.

ANTONIO MACCO'S SKULL.

The Revista de Medicina y Cirugia of Havana publishes an "anthropological study," by Dr. Montolio, Dr. de la Torre and Dr. Montano, of the skull of the Cuban patriot, Antonio Maceo. The most noteworthy point is the existence of an interparietal, or, as it is sometimes termed, an "inca" bone, from the theory that it was universal among, and distinctive of, the old Peruvian race. This, however, was shown by Anichetino to be erroneous, for after examining many thousands of skulls in various museums he found the bone in only 0.8 per cent. in Peruvians, in 1.5 per cent. in negroes, and in 1.3 per cent. in Americans. Maceo was, of course, of mixed race. The general character of the cranium approximates to that of the white race and indicates a man of remarkable capacity. The rest of the skeleton indicates more to the negro type and shows that he must have been a man of herculean strength.—London Lancet.

THE JOKERS' BUDGET.

Constancy.

A smile, a tear, and then good by. The train rolls from the station;—Ten minutes later, watch her try A new flirtation.

—Detroit Free Press.

Appreciation.